Danita Pappas

CI 513

Evaluating Websites

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**danitap –** portaportal and delicious username

**What are some key features of a web-based bookmarking utility that are helpful to teachers who want to share links with students?**

There is a level of control on portaportal that isn’t available on delicious. On portaportal, I am able to create specific folders and the links may or may not be made available at my discretion. If I were to have students’ access information via my portaportal account, I would organize it differently than I did for this assignment. The simplicity of access is important. As long as one has the username of the page they are looking for, they can access the information. One need not become a member or login themselves if they want the benefit of accessing the information. This is especially beneficial to students who have little access to the internet or limited experience (which is far less prevalent now), or whose parents are skeptical of online communities. It is also highly beneficial to have this online access *because* so many students spend so much of their time online. It is another way to reach and teach students.

**What are some key features of a social bookmarking utility that are helpful to teachers who want to find websites for instructional purposes?**

I feel that simplicity is key. Something that is well organized, and easily accessible as well, are important factors in assisting teachers. What’s nice about delicious is that you can access the tags of others who have the same interests as you This is incredibly helpful as there is so much information it is great to have a way to narrow it down to the most applicable or useful. You can also add subscriptions as a way of seeing other websites that are tagged with the tags that you are most interested in.

**Compare web-based bookmarking and social bookmarking. What are the key differences between the two different applications? Consider the method of setting up an account, organizing, and sharing websites. Also consider issues of privacy and suitability for different grade levels.**

The main difference between the two applications is the ease of accessing others’ information. In portaportal you need to know the person and their username. In delicious, you can access everyone’s tags and findings and bookmarks. You have control of the organization of portaportal while delicious claims that the bookmarks organize themselves – with the tagging system. I feel that for the educational purposes of teacher to student portaportal makes the most sense. The information is very specific, while the information on delicious is spread out. If I wanted my students to be able to access certain websites to gather information for a music project – I would use my portaportal as a jumping off point for them. Now, before making the folder for this particular assignment, I believe I would spend ample time on delicious gathering information to forward on to my students.